

SOLDIERS MERE SERFS IN MILITARY COURTS

So Lieut. Col. Ansell Declares
in Denouncing Present Code
of Army Justice

ADDRESSES STATE LAWYERS

Bedford Springs, Pa., June 26.—Sixty per cent of the general court-martial cases in the American army should never have been tried, 70 per cent of the cases were not tried; 20 per cent were so poorly tried that the record cannot be relied upon at all, and in 75 per cent of the convictions the punishment meted out was such as to shock the conscience.

This was the scathing denunciation of the court-martial system of the United States army delivered this morning by Lieutenant Colonel Samuel T. Ansell, formerly judge advocate general of the army, speaking before the twenty-fifth annual convention of the State Bar Association here.

The speaker claimed that the army of the United States, as far as its system of military justice was concerned, was still in the condition of serfdom, that the military code or the articles of war utterly ignored the fact that the soldier was still a citizen and as such entitled to fair trial and the impartial administration of justice. It neither guaranteed impartial justice nor that protection to the accused which is provided by the rules of law and evidence in civil tribunals.

Remnant of Middle Ages

The so-called Crowder revision of 1916 did not change the system of basic principles of the code. It was not intended and designed to make any fundamental change as the secretary of war and the judge advocate general both frankly declared. The system is not only of British origin, but it is the British of several centuries ago. It belongs to an age when the common soldier was but the personal retainer of the king and not a servant of the state. The British code had been changed and made more modern, but the United States still adhered to its medieval code.

The results are that the penalties and sentences are shockingly harsh and everybody—if everybody would speak frankly and helpfully—must be heartily ashamed of them. "I wish to say," he continued, "with all the emphasis I can put into the statement that, by reason of our utter disregard of those principles of our jurisprudence which must govern every just trial, no one who believes in and wants to see justice regulated by law can have confidence in or respect for our courts-martial during this war." He contended that it by no means followed that a man even while temporarily a soldier was a brute beast.

Speaking of the effects of the system he said that every year in days of peace 84 per cent of the men were before general courts-martial, with 5 per cent expelled from the service in disgrace and undergoing long terms of imprisonment. Every year 70 per cent were before inferior courts of our participation in the war there had been up to the time of the armistice 22,000 general courts-martial and 320,000 inferior court cases. In the general courts-martial cases, though many of the average were for trivial offenses, the average sentence had been more than seven years' imprisonment.

Spirit-Crushing Injustice

A letter from the secretary of war was quoted in which it was stated that the secretary, after the perusal of the complaints, was satisfied that justice had been done. This letter, the speaker said, was not written by but for the secretary of war. It simply expressed the military or departmental view.

Out of his experience as acting judge advocate general the speaker was convinced that this view was wrong and that the system of justice was one of organized, spirit-crushing injustice. By his insistence upon this view, in spite of the claim that everything was right, there came a sort of general jail delivery by the clemency board, so that sentences which aggregated 28,040 were reduced to 6724 years, and there was a percentage of reduction all along the line of more than 70 per cent.

The code, as a whole, he said, was a "go-as-you-please" code with little or no restraint upon the military commander.

Twenty-nine offenses may be punished as the court-martial directs. Any punishment except death may be awarded, and for even minor military offenses life imprisonment may be imposed. In eleven cases the death sentence may be imposed, and in two cases death is mandatory. In time of war a court-martial may award any punishment it pleases other than death for any offense whatever, and for those which in civil life would be regarded as trivial.

A Mitchell Palmer, United States attorney general, and formerly alien property custodian last night paid tribute to the work of lawyers throughout the war. He declared it was largely through their efforts that the bulk of alien property was discovered. He said thousands of lawyers gave their services in carrying out the provisions of the alien property act.

Mr. Palmer told how enemy property was sought out, seized and disposed of. He described the effect of the operations upon the conduct of the war in crippling the enemy and spoiling many of his plans to make use of the industrial organization which Germany had built up in this country to aid, not only as propaganda, but in the actual conduct of the war.

Summer Train Schedule
TO
WILDWOOD
EFFECTIVE JUNE 29TH
Southbound—Leave Chestnut Street Ferry.
Weekdays—7:30 A. M., 7:00 A. M., 8:50 A. M., 12:40 P. M., 1:40 P. M., 6:20 P. M. and 9:20 P. M.
Sundays—7:30 A. M., 7:00 A. M., 8:50 A. M., 11:30 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.
Northbound—Leave Wildwood.
Weekdays—8:45 A. M., 9:55 A. M., 1:00 A. M., 1:25 P. M., 4:00 P. M. and 6:15 P. M.
Sundays—8:30 A. M., 4:00 P. M., 6:20 P. M. and 9:00 P. M.
k—Saturdays only.
c—Connecting Express—through train.
Wildwood and Delaware Bay
Short Line Railroad
Reading Connection

FIELD PREPARED FOR R-34 LANDING

Roosevelt Grounds at Mineola
Being Made Ready for Arrival of British Dirigible

Mineola, N. Y., June 26.—Preparations for the safe anchorage of the British dirigible R-34 at Roosevelt Field are so near completion that it is likely that Colonel Frederick W. Lucas, in command of the detachment sent here from England to arrange for the coming of the big machine, soon will cable to England that all is in readiness on this side for the flight from Scotland. It is understood, however, that the start will not be made before July 4.

With the added time made possible by the necessity of overhauling the five engines of the R-34 after its recent flight over the North Sea, additional preparations for its care at Roosevelt Field to those at first contemplated have been made.

Halifax, N. S., June 25.—The air council of the British admiralty has instructed the captain of the dirigible R-34 to pass over Nova Scotia, possibly at Halifax, on his transatlantic flight and drop a bag of letters from United Kingdom officials to prominent Canadians. It was announced here yesterday by H. R. Silver, president of the board of trade.

Mr. Silver made public a message from the agent general of Nova Scotia in London, stating that the big airship, in her proposed flight from East Portau, Scotland, to Mineola, N. Y., would go over here "provided weather conditions do not necessitate a more southerly course." The admiralty expressed regret that it would not be possible for the R-34 to land at Halifax because of the considerable time that would be required for making refueling arrangements.

WILKINS TRIAL NEAR END

Jury Inspects Home Where Doctor's Wife Was Slain

Mineola, N. Y., June 26.—(By A. P.)—The jury which has heard the testimony in the case of Dr. Walter Keene Wilkins, charged with wife murder, today inspected the Wilkins home at Long Beach, where Mrs. Wilkins was found late on the night of February 27 in a dying condition. It was expected that the case would be under consideration by the juryman by nightfall.

Upon the return of the jury to the courthouse counsel in the case were ready to begin summing up. Taking of testimony ended yesterday when several character witnesses appeared for the accused physician.

RECORD FLIGHT FROM SHORE

Plane Goes 140 Miles to New York in Sixty-one Minutes

New York, June 26.—A record flight from Atlantic City, N. J., to New York was established yesterday when Lieutenant Kenneth H. Murray, formerly of the American air service, piloted his airplane over the route, 140 miles, in 61 minutes. The time was officially recorded by the Aero Club of America.

The plane flown by Lieutenant Murray is of the small scout type, a Sopwith "Camel," and the same design as that used by Captain M. R. James, who was lost while attempting to fly from Boston to Atlantic City.

DENIES COVENANT ENCHAINS IRELAND

Senator Phelan Says League
Does Not Guarantee British
Territorial Integrity

ALLOWS INTERNAL REVOLT

By the Associated Press
Washington, June 26.—Assertions that the league of nations would handicap the effort for Irish freedom were denied in the Senate today by Senator Phelan, Democrat, California.

"Some persons interested in the Irish cause," he said, "have objected to Article 10 because they fear it would guarantee the territorial integrity of the British empire. This it does only with respect to 'external aggression.'"

"Now, Irish independence can be won either by the voluntary act of England, successful revolution or the intervention by a superior force from the outside. Of these three avenues to independence the league stands in the way only of the last."

"If an Irishman tells me that he would put Irish independence before the spectacle of a world bathed again in blood, the loss again of millions of lives, and the hunger, disease, privations, sufferings and torture inflicted upon millions more, then I would say he has forfeited generous consideration by an exhibition of unutterable selfishness."

Ireland Not Party Question

Deprecating any effort to make Irish freedom a party question, Mr. Phelan said the Republicans could not claim credit for the resolution recently passed

requesting a hearing for the Irish delegates at Versailles. On the other hand, he said, the Republicans furnished most of the opposition to the resolution adopted in 1916 expressing the hope "that the British Government may exercise clemency in the treatment of Irish political prisoners."

"In conversation recently with President Eamon de Valera of the Irish republic," said Senator Phelan, "he emphatically declared that he trusted the holy cause to which he had pledged his life and honor would not be dragged into the mire of American party politics."

Mr. Phelan declared the solid Republican support a few days ago of the Borah resolution asking the hearing for Irish delegates "was intended to embarrass the President."

"It was also done, I believe, to defeat the league of nations by exciting a false suspicion that Article 10 prevented internal revolution," he continued. "It is unfortunate that so great and worthy a cause should be so crudely used as a vulgar means of winning votes by men whose previous action would indicate that they have no real sympathy with Ireland."

With the resolution of Senator Fall, Republican, of New Mexico, for declaration of a state of peace, blocked in the Senate foreign relations committee, the general prediction about the Capitol today was that there would be no further formal move in the plan until the committee meets again Monday.

Senators Plan to Trail Wilson

It became known today that the proposal to send a special train to carry a number of senators on a speaking tour against the league while the President is speaking in its behalf had reached the point where a tentative

itinerary is being arranged. Senator McCormick, Republican, of Illinois, who has the arrangements in charge, said, however, that the plans were far from complete. Details of the President's tour, as yet unannounced, probably will be considered before the project finally is approved.

With the army bill out of the way, the Senate today began consideration of the annual naval appropriations bill carrying \$646,272,000, which sum is \$45,000,000 in excess of that carried in the House bill. The army bill was adopted late yesterday without a roll-call, with committee amendments included. It now goes to conference, where numerous items will have to be agreed upon.

Chief among these are the provisions for an army during 1920 of 400,000 men, as compared to 300,000, provided in the House bill. Other principal items in the Senate bill also show big increases over appropriations voted in the House. These include a \$30,000,000 increase for aviation.

DEFERS RAIL-HAUL BILL

Senate Committee Prefers One Comprehensive Measure

Washington, June 26.—(By A. P.)—By a vote of 8 to 6 the Senate interstate commerce committee today postponed action on the bill of Senator Poindexter, Republican, of Washington, proposing to prohibit higher rate charges for a long railroad haul than those of shorter routes.

The majority took the position that all pending railroad problems should be incorporated in the general bill on which a subcommittee soon is to begin work.

GERMAN REFUSES SALUTE; FINED

Costs Coblenz Captain 1000
Marks for Haughtiness to
U. S. Lieutenant

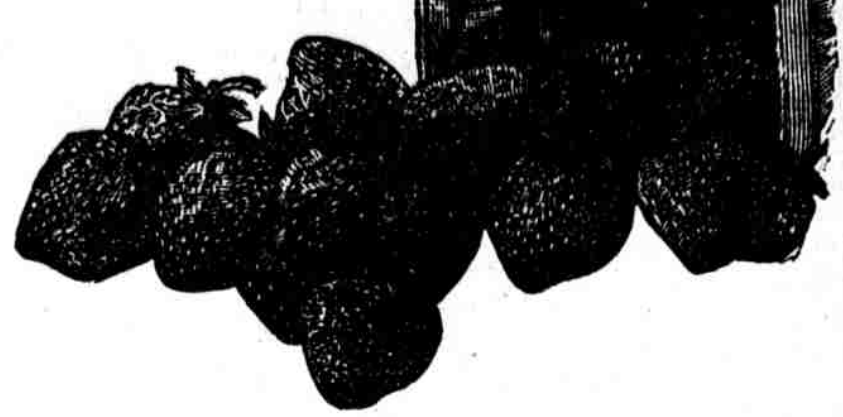
Coblenz, Tuesday, June 24.—(By A. P.)—Captain Bachhauser, assigned by the German army to duty in Coblenz, was fined 1000 marks today for refusing to salute an American Lieutenant.

The captain contended the war was over and that, anyway, the regulations did not call for his saluting an officer of lower rank.

This is the first instance of an action of this kind since a definite turn was taken in the peace situation. American officers say that after the treaty of peace is signed the regulation issued last September compelling German officers to salute will probably not be enforced. Civilians generally have seemed relieved as a result of the action of the German National Assembly at Weimar in reference to peace. Several individual instances have been reported here, however, where civilians in the street have assumed a haughty attitude toward the soldiers without serious trouble.

The Americans do not expect any trouble between civilians and soldiers, but extra precautions have been taken by the military police at Treves, Coblenz and other towns to prevent trouble. With a view to avoiding clashes, no night leaves will be allowed in any of the towns within the occupied area, the officers desiring to have their men in the barracks at night when most of the quarrels and fights between Germans and Americans have occurred.

strawberries are here



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